

Appl. No. 10/644,475
Amdt. Dated February 1, 2005
Reply to Final Office action of January 27, 2005

REMARKS

The Applicant has reviewed the Final Office action of January 27, 2005 and thanks Examiner Jules for his detailed review of the pending claims and indication of allowable claims and subject matter. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected. Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8-19 stand allowable. In response to the Office action independent claim 1 has been amended, while claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 5-19 remain in the present application. In view of the above amendment and following remarks the Applicant believes the claims are all in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass the application to issue.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burton (U.S. Patent No. 5,230,658). Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the patentable subject matter of claims 3 and 4. In view of this amendment the rejection to claim 1 is now moot. Further, claims 2 and 5-7 are dependent claims adding further patentable subject matter to the allowable independent claims. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-2 and 5-7.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office action indicated that Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 4 and intervening claim 3. Further, the Office action indicated that claims 8-19 are allowable. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the application be passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 1, 2005

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